

REMARKS

Remaining in the case is method Claim 1 as amended with dependent Claim 3 and system Claim 2 as amended with dependent Claim 4. Claims 1 and 2 as initially presented have been rejected by Examiner Elve under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Budininkas et al. in view of Miramontes. It is Examiner Elve's position that Budininkas et al. discloses engine exhaust gas which passes through a catalytic reactor and then through a precooler and condenser in order to extract water. The catalytic converter completely oxidizes the hydrocarbon present in the exhaust. Treated exhaust gas is cooled to 120-150 F and then further air conditioned to 65-75 F whereupon condensation occurs, that is the dew point is reached. Miramontes discloses a conversion of exhaust gases into harmless products. The exhaust gases are directed through a refrigerating system to cool the gases to below 100 degree C and then through a compressor in order to condense the water. The condensed water is removed and the waste gases (processed exhaust gas) are recycled to the engine's cylinders. It is Examiner Elve's position that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to recycle the processed exhaust gas because of the enhanced efficiency.

Reconsideration of the rejection is requested.

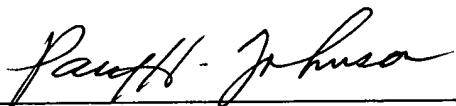
The claims have been rewritten to more particularly define the invention. The purpose and function of the present invention is to provide a method and system for treating exhaust gas so that it is usable for industrial purposes that require a high degree of inertness and freedom from entrained water vapor. For this purpose, the applicant herein has provided a system that produces treated gas useful for industrial purposes and specifically useful for pressurizing an oil well such to enhance the extraction of oil from an underground formation. The inventor provides a system that is not taught or suggested by either Budininkas et al. or Miramontes in that the applicant utilizes a refrigeration type process, that is, compression of the gas followed by cooling

to extract the water vapor therefrom and then, after separating out and disposing of the condensed water, to provide extra dry exhaust gas. The extra-dry exhaust gas is then compressed in a second compression step to provide compressed extra dry exhaust gas for industrial purposes. The patent to Budininkas et al. does not show the concept of compressing gas from an internal combustion engine and sending the compressed gas through a condenser by which is cooled. The system of Budininkas et al. is completely different than the method described in Claim 1 and the system as described in Claim 2 that employ first and second compressors for compressing the gas. Budininkas does not show even a single compressor and therefore is completely alien to the teachings of the present invention. In the same way Miramontes does not show treating gas for industrial purposes by the use of dual compression and cooling. In Miramontes, a cooling system 12A is used, but does not include a preceding compression step. In Miramontes a compressor 13 is used but only as an after step--not before a cooling step so that no refrigeration type water vapor extraction is achieved. The compression step 13 of Miramontes is only for reinjecting the gas back into the intake of the engine from which the exhaust gas is originally taken, not for the purpose of providing a substantially water-free compressed extra dry exhaust gas for industrial purposes.

Applicant's invention use highly useful as set out in the specification, for enhancing the production of liquid hydrocarbon (crude oil) that is in such critical short supply today. The use of Applicant's invention can enhance the recovery of crude oil from older oil fields and employs a system that is completely different from anything illustrated or described in Budininkas et al. or Miramontes.

It is understood there is no fee due at this time. However, should a fee deficiency have occurred, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-1971 per 37 C.F.R. § 1.25.

Respectfully submitted,



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